

For Immediate Reporting

MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY GAN KIM YONG PARTICIPATES IN THE APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING

1. Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong represented Singapore on the first day of the APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) on 8 November 2021. Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Education Dr Mohamad Maliki Osman represented Singapore on the second day of the AMM on 9 November 2021. The virtual meeting was hosted by New Zealand, this year's APEC Chair, and was attended by Ministers from the 21 APEC economies, as well as representatives from the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

2. At the meeting, Mr Gan proposed three areas where APEC economies could work together to drive economic recovery. First, there was a need to strengthen national and regional connectivity to facilitate access to essential goods and services. Mr Gan noted that APEC economies had pushed forward with the implementation of the 2020 Declaration on Facilitating the Movement of Essential Goods. There was also good progress on the APEC Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan. Second, Mr Gan highlighted that APEC played a crucial role in deepening regional economic integration and in this regard, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) were two pathways that would contribute to the realisation of the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP). Third, Mr Gan encouraged APEC economies to work together towards meaningful and substantive outcomes at the upcoming 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12). He emphasised the importance of delivering results on the Trade and Health Initiative, and committed to working with partners to produce tangible outcomes on the Joint Statement Initiative on E-Commerce.

3. In a joint statement after the meeting, the APEC Ministers emphasised the need to strengthen international cooperation on COVID-19, and reiterated their commitment to continue facilitating trade in COVID-19 vaccines and essential goods. They also called for the safe resumption of cross-border travel in the region.

4. The APEC Ministers agreed to work together to ensure a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment, and supported ongoing efforts to conclude, ratify, implement and upgrade trade agreements in the region. They called for a responsive, relevant and revitalised WTO, and reaffirmed their support for the ongoing work to improve the WTO's functioning, including its negotiation and dispute settlement functions.

5. The APEC Ministers also acknowledged the need for a more inclusive and sustainable economic recovery, and for urgent and concrete action to address climate change. In addition, they recognised the importance of science, technology and innovation in preparing economies for future changes and shocks, and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting each other to harness the opportunities of the digital economy for public benefit and enhanced economic growth. The full APEC Joint Ministerial Statement can be found [here](#).

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
9 NOVEMBER 2021

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